LEGISLATION I WORKED ON THIS SESSION *HB 6672:*

Affordable Housing for Seniors

SB 349:

Banning the Use of Plastic Grocery Bags

SB 668:

Providing A Medical Option of Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally III Adults

HB 5287:

Running Bamboo

HB 5290:

Prohibiting the Use of Glyphosates in Watershed Areas

HB 6076:

Repealing the Personal Alternative Minimum Tax

HB 6323:

Establishing a Connecticut Transportation Bank

CONTACT REP. STEINBERG

HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267

WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/STEINBERG



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STATEREPSTEINBERG



www.twitter.com/@Steinberg06880



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267
WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/STEINBERG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JONATHAN STEINBERG

PROUDLY SERVING THE 136TH DISTRICT, WESTPORT

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HARTFORD, CT Permit No. 3937

Dear Neighbor:

This past legislative session was one of the most challenging in recent memory. We were still negotiating the state budget right up to our constitutional deadline.

As I did four years ago, I felt compelled to vote against the proposed budget, going against the majority of my fellow Democrats. I thought the initial budget proposed by the Governor was much worse, indiscriminately cutting critical social and health programs leaving the state's most vulnerable with nowhere to turn. Both Democrats and Republicans resolved to restore some of the most draconian cuts. But the resulting budget was balanced by the addition of new taxes and increases on existing ones.

I led a group of moderates within the House Democratic Caucus in bringing our concerns to leadership. We were successful in getting some of the new business service taxes removed. But the new and increased income tax remained, with a disproportionate impact on my district here in Westport. As compared to most municipalities, Westport gets very little from state government and I simply couldn't support a budget that had such a negative impact on my constituents.

The budget debate dominated the session's agenda, to the point that some important bills never were brought to a vote. But there were a good number of other bills which did pass, as you will see from this session recap.

I look forward to the day when Connecticut's economy is once again vibrant and every citizen has the opportunity for a better future. That's what I strive to achieve, as your state representative.







JONATHAN STEINBERG

PROUDLY SERVING THE 136TH DISTRICT, WESTPORT



CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



Rep. Steinberg being honored by the AARP for his leadership on energy policy affecting seniors.

ENERGY

VARIABLE ELECTRIC RATES: I fought last year to regulate predatory third-party electric providers who were taking advantage of consumers with "bait-and-switch" teaser variable electric rates. This year, we imposed limits on these providers ability to switch consumers into inflated variable rate plans. (SB 573)

GRID MODERNIZATION/FIXED FEES: We succeeded in putting a limit on fixed fees utilities can charge consumers for a base rate, and made a small start in setting the stage for tomorrow's interactive electric grid. (SB 570)

SHARED SOLAR PILOT: We are now permitting community solar projects, so those who can't put solar panels on their houses can still benefit from the expansion of solar energy in Connecticut. (SB 928)

ENVIRONMENT

LIS BLUE PLAN: A landmark piece of legislation which enables planning and mapping of Long Island Sound to assure responsible management for recreation and the ecosystem. (HB 6839)

PESTICIDES: Municipalities are now required to notify parents before spraying pesticides not just at schools but at public parks as well.

MICROBEADS: An important first step in banning environmentally-toxic plastic microbeads found in many cosmetic products. Concerns center on effects to marine life on the microscopic level.

TRANSPORTATION

LET'S GO CT: Over \$4 billion for the Governor's grand initiative to remake the state's transportation infrastructure, including funding for Fairfield County's Metro North and highway fixes.

As Chair of the Transportation Bonding Subcommittee, I would be eager to convene the legislature to revive plans for a statutory "Lock Box" on state transportation funds, as well as further conversation on how we're going to fund the huge infrastructure investment we need.

UBER AND TESLA: Changing the face of transportation options was debated during session; time will tell.

AGING

CARE ACT: Requires hospitals to document a designated caregiver in a patient's discharge plan and instruct that caregiver on any post-discharge tasks with which the patient will need assistance. *(SB 290)*

EDUCATION

MORE Special Ed recommendations: As Chairman of the MORE Commission, I recommended reforming special education to improve effectiveness for all students and save money through regional collaboration.

JUSTICE

SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY: Decreases penalties for some non-violent, drug-related felonies to decrease incarceration and ultimately save on prison costs. *(SB 952)*

IMMUNIZATIONS: Notarized statements from the parents or guardian of a child seeking a religious exemption from a required immunization is now necessary. (HB 6949)

SMALL VICTORIES

ANTI-SPOOFING: We all hate those annoying phone calls, displaying false phone numbers, from telemarketers pushing fraudulent credit scams. I introduced legislation which improves chances of nabbing them by offering a share in penalty fines for those who turn them in. (SB 99)

DIASTAT: I fought for four years to get legislation passed which now allows trained laypeople to administer emergency, life-saving epilepsy medication to students when a school nurse isn't available. (HB 7023)

CONCUSSIONS: We worked hard to improve concussions education in school sports programs last year; this year we extended the concussion education program to youth sports leagues. (HB 6722)

